

Lahore and its surrounding area made Roberts include it in his book *THE BIRDS OF PAKISTAN* (1992) as a rare and local visitor to this country. No record of its breeding in Pakistan has ever been given.

However, detailed observation over a period of six years has revealed it to be an uncommon but regular breeding visitor to the environs of Lahore. I have sighted the bird over thirty times and found it to have been breeding in some five cases. The nests are built either in electric poles or in trees. Young were observed to have been raised in three cases. In a sighting in 1993, the nest was built on an electric pole at a height of about 6 m. It was a rag-tag collection

of grasses, pieces of cloth and other material. The two young left the nest by 21st August, 1993. They could fly well and accompanied their parents, both of whom fed them.

The pied mynah can easily be seen around the well-wooded suburbs of Lahore. I have found the bird in all months of the year except the colder ones and very late in January, which probably indicates that it is an early breeding visitor to Lahore, staying on till the end of the rains.

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### 17. NEW RECORD FOR BLACKTHROATED JAY *GARRULUS LANCEOLATUS* (VIGORS) IN KASHMIR

The blackthroated jay *Garrulus lanceolatus* (Vigors) is reported from Pakistan, from Chitral through the outer ranges and valleys of the western Himalayas through Kashmir to Nepal (HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS INDIA AND PAKISTAN, Ali and Ripley, 1987). It is locally common in Pakistan in the Takht-i-Suleiman range, Shingar range, and Torghar range, as well as in Dir and Swat through Murree and Hazara dist. into Kashmir (*THE BIRDS OF PAKISTAN*, Vol. 2, T.J. Roberts, 1992). This jay has not been recorded in the Gilgit region of Kashmir North.

We observed individuals and small flocks of blackthroated jays in the Tangir and Khanbari Valleys from 8th August to 15th August, 1995. These side valleys are in Chilas dist. 35° 24' N lat. and 74° 11' E long.) on the northwest side of

the Indus River. The birds were sighted at ca. 2000 m elevation, flying and perching among streamside walnut and fruit trees. Indigenous tree species at this elevation included *Quercus baloot* and *Pinus gerardiana*.

These valleys are somewhat contiguous with the Swat Range, so the discovery of this species in the Chilas region should not come as a great surprise. However, possibly due to a lack of research in this area, the species was not previously recorded in this part of Kashmir.

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### 18. YELLOWBROWED BULBUL *HYPSSIPETES INDICUS* (JERDON) IN THE KOLLI HILLS (TAMIL NADU), EASTERN GHATS

The yellowbrowed bulbul *Hypsipetes indicus* (Jerdon) (Ali and Ripley, 1983) is known

to occur only in the evergreen biotope of the Western Ghats south of Belgaum and Goa and

in Sri Lanka. It is known to affect sholas, coffee-shade trees and edges of thick jungles.

Recently, this species has been reported from Mamandur forests (Santharam, 1991) in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, Santharam (1991) also mentions S.A. Hussain seeing the yellowbrowed bulbul at Tirupathi Hills.

I would like to report another sighting of the yellowbrowed bulbul from outside its range. As part of the Tree Shrew Project funded by World Wildlife Fund - US through World Wide Fund for Nature - India (Tamil Nadu State Office), I happened to visit Kolli hills which is a compact block of hills with steep slopes comprising an area of 490 sq. km south of Salem. It was during my stay at Solakkadu (1200 m above msl; 11° 18' N, 78° 21' E) on 8th March, 1992, that my attention was drawn to the very familiar double note which was heard a few times

before I saw a pair of yellowbrowed bulbuls moving amidst the foliage of the trees flanking the road through the shola. All the sightings were in dense forests. These bulbuls were seen many times during the day.

It is interesting to note that all sightings of the species outside its known range are from hill ranges in the Eastern Ghats. Though I stayed at Yercuad situated in the Shevaroyis for almost six months and used to walk through coffee-estates regularly, I never encountered this species. It would be worthwhile to map the distribution of the species outside its designated range.

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SANTHARAM, V. (1991): Yellowbrowed Bulbul *Hypsipetes indicus* (Jerdon) in the Eastern Ghats. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. 88(2): 287-288.*

### 19. INDIAN ROBIN (*SAXICOLA FULICATA*) FORAGING IN THE LIGHT OF FLUORESCENT LAMPS

On 29th June, 1995, inside the control room of a 220 kv grid substation at Raipur, unusual behaviour of the Indian robin was observed between 1930 to 2130 hrs.

The large control room was well illuminated by fluorescent lamps which had attracted a large number of insects. A male Indian robin which was roosting inside this control room for the last few days, perched on the edge of the ventilator, and time and again performed short aerial sallies to capture the winged insects and returned to the perch. It moved from one ventilator to another several times in about two

hours. Occasionally, a female house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) also joined it.

This act of the Indian robin was seen to be repeated on two subsequent days but on these days the sparrow was absent.

Foraging by the Indian robin in the light of fluorescent lamps till 2130 hrs has not been recorded in the literature and is rather unusual.

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